AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving incident light intended for a receptor;

receiving the incident light into a beamsplitter;

refracting ~~sending~~ part of the incident light to a sensor, wherein the sensor is in a first plane and the incident light is in a second plane;

identifying a portion of the incident light that exceeds a predetermined threshold intensity; ~~and~~

adjusting the opacity of a first plurality of cells of a matrix corresponding to the portion;

identifying a bright light source in the incident light;

identifying a direction of sight of the receptor; and

adjusting the opacity of the first plurality of cells of the matrix when the direction of sight is within an active zone, the direction of sight being within the active zone when the direction of sight approaches the bright light source.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, identifying a portion of the incident light that exceeds a predetermined threshold intensity further comprising:

associating a first intensity value to the incident light; and

comparing the first intensity value to the predetermined threshold intensity.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, adjusting the opacity of a first plurality of cells of a matrix corresponding to the portion further comprising:

identifying an axis between the receptor in a first position and the bright light ~~a~~ source, wherein the axis intersects the matrix; and

adjusting the opacity of the first plurality of cells of the matrix which are substantially near the intersection of the axis.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising:

determining that the receptor has moved to a second position;

identifying a second axis between the receptor in the second position and the source, wherein the second axis intersects the matrix; and

adjusting the opacity of a second plurality of cells of the matrix which are substantially near the intersection of the second axis.

5. (Original) The method of claim 3, adjusting the opacity of a first plurality of cells of the matrix which are substantially near the intersection of the axis further comprising increasing the opacity of the first plurality of cells.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~6~~, further comprising:

adjusting the opacity of a second plurality of cells of the matrix when the direction of sight is not within the active zone.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the second plurality of cells is larger than the first plurality of cells.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, adjusting the opacity of a first plurality of cells of a matrix corresponding to the portion further comprising:

identifying a first optical element of the receptor;

identifying a second optical element of the receptor; and

selecting the first plurality of cells based upon a parallax effect between the first and second optical elements.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a light deflector to redirect incident light of an image being received by a receptor;

a sensor to receive the redirected incident light;

a matrix disposed between the light deflector and the receptor, said matrix comprising a plurality of cells, wherein the opacity of each of the cells may selectively be adjusted; and

a controller coupled to the matrix, wherein the controller:

receives information about the intensity of the redirected incident light from the sensor; and

adjusts the opacity of one or more cells of the matrix based upon the information.

12. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the matrix comprises a plurality of two-dimensional transmissive liquid crystal display cells.

13. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the sensor comprises a plurality of photoreceptor cells.

14. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the controller comprises a processor-based system including a software program.

15. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the deflector comprises a beamsplitter.

16. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the beamsplitter passes about 90% of the incident light while deflecting about 10% of the incident light to the sensor.

17. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the beamsplitter passes about 60% of the incident light while deflecting about 40% of the incident light to the sensor.

18. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the beamsplitter passes about 50% of the incident light while deflecting about 50% of the incident light to the sensor.

19. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the sensor comprises a charge-coupled device.

20. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein the charge-coupled device is located inside a camera body.

21. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the controller further includes parameter adjustment controls.

22. (Original) The system of claim 11, further comprising an adjustable lens which receives the incident light and focuses the incident light on the matrix.

Claims 23-38 (Withdrawn)

39. (Currently Amended) An article comprising a medium storing software which, when executed, causes a processor-based system to:

receive light intensity information from a sensor where the sensor is ~~not~~ in a ~~primary image~~ plane different from the plane of a shading matrix;

compare the light intensity information to a predetermined threshold intensity value; and

adjust the opacity of one or more cells of the shading ~~a~~ matrix.

40. (Original) The article of claim 39, further storing software which, when executed, causes a processor-based system to:

monitor a position of a receptor; and

adjust the opacity of a second plurality of cells of the matrix when the position of the receptor changes.

41. (Original) The article of claim 40, further storing software which, when executed, causes a processor-based system to:

monitor a position of a light source whose intensity exceeds the predetermined threshold intensity value;

adjust additional cells of the matrix when the position of the receptor is not substantially toward the light source.

42. (Original) The article of claim 40, further storing software which, when executed, causes a processor-based system to adjust additional cells of the matrix when the receptor includes more than one optical receiver.

Claims 43-50 (Withdrawn)

51. (New) A method comprising:

identifying a source of bright light in incident light, said incident light to be received by a receptor;

redirecting a portion of said incident light to a sensor;

determining the angle between said source of bright light and the direction of sight of the receptor; and

adjusting the opacity of at least one cell in a shading matrix based on said angle.

52. (New) The method of claim 51 wherein determining the angle between said source of bright light and the direction of sight of the receptor includes defining an active zone and a passive zone, said active zone closer to said source of bright light, said passive zone farther from the bright light source.

53. (New) The method of claim 52 wherein adjusting the opacity of at least one cell in a shading matrix based on said angle includes adjusting the opacity of fewer cells when said angle is in said active zone.

54. (New) The method of claim 52 wherein adjusting the opacity of at least one cell in a shading matrix based on said angle includes adjusting the opacity of more cells when said angle is in said passive zone.